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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

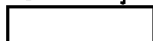
OFFICE OF THE SUGGESTION AWARDS COMMITTEE


8 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, DDP/Projects and Programs Group

SUBJECT : Clandestine Services Operations Suggestions Program

1. You stated that the Assistant to the DD/P would like to see a summary of the reasons which prompted the proposed revision of



- a. The experience of the Clandestine Services Operations Suggestions Program, since its inception in August 1960, convinces us that its full potential has not yet been reached. This, coupled with the fact that the Control Officer has just accepted an overseas post, makes this a propitious time for a change in its administration. After a review of their cases with the former Control Officer, a policy discussion was held with his Chief,  who endorsed our opinion that a change is needed.
- b. As you know, this part of the Suggestion Awards Program was instituted to solicit cold war ideas and techniques as distinguished from Clandestine Services devices, which were already provided for in the DD/P Special Panel of the Suggestion Awards Committee. As a corollary to this premise, the appointment of a Control Officer within the DD/P was designed to protect security downwards, and to eliminate a mental-security hazard on the part of the suggesters themselves. We are convinced that DD/P personnel are more inclined to reveal operational ideas to DD/P personnel than to DD/S personnel. The activation of the Program was also an effort to assure that the Agency would grant recognition for successful substantive ideas directly related to the CIA Mission.

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- c. There were some 60 suggestions submitted from 11 August 1960 to 31 December 1961. At least 7 proposals are pending -- most of which, we think, deserve some reward -- the ideas did stimulate some thinking and some action. Furthermore, I doubt that some of the declined ideas were exploited sufficiently or, that they were attended to by persons of sufficient operational stature within the divisions. Their full potential has not been realized -- many of these ideas could have triggered effective action. At least half of these cases could be reviewed and reconsidered.
- d. As for the content, the range of suggestions is wide indeed -- Economic and Psychological Warfare, Propaganda, Nuclear testing, National Policy -- one interesting case came in about Food Offers to Iron Curtain countries -- it seems to have died for lack of "nourishment" by the division involved, although the consensus was that it was a sound proposal. We observed that many of the ideas were declined because they were in conflict with national objectives but there is no evidence that they were considered beyond the staff levels, or that efforts were made to stimulate a change in national thinking.
- e. The Special Panel of DD/P is well organized and successful. At its first meeting, it awarded some \$1700.00 -- it has taken the initiative on a controversial proposal to influence the Office of Security to permit the use of a certain sweeping device -- its members have even discussed the need for cold war suggestions. The advisors from the Office of Communications and from Technical Services Division provide sound guidance for awards deliberations. Our own Administrative Staff logs and prepares all correspondence, minutes, Certificates, requests for cash and advises on coordination possibilities. In this connection it has been our experience that consultations, wherever feasible, lessen the tedious paper work, expedite decisions and enhance the prestige of the Program.

2. I propose that:

- a. The Staff of the Suggestion Awards Committee provide all administrative support for the Clandestine Services Operations Suggestions Program, as is presently done for the Special Panel.

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- b. All future worthy suggestions which the Control Officer considers to have a potential be discussed at authoritative levels, and that in the economy of time, greater use be made of notes and Memos for the Record.
- c. One DD/P Covert Action expert, and one Foreign Intelligence expert be appointed as advisors to the Special Panel on an Ad Hoc basis, when Covert Action or Foreign Intelligence cases are in debate.
- d. Two alternatives regarding the new Control Officer:

PLAN A - That he be an officer who by virtue of his position and resources has an overall idea of the kinds of projects in the DD/P drafting stages, of the kinds of reactions of the affected Staff Officers, and of the feasibility of certain proposals based on experience and knowledge forbidden to the suggester because of compartmentation, OR --

PLAN B - That the Chairman, Special Panel be designated Control Officer. He in turn to have a "leg-man" who would coordinate good ideas with desk and staff personnel. (The major objection to this is that the Program would be conducted, as heretofore, except that there would be one more administrative level involved.)

- 3. In order to reemphasize the DD/P's original message "to stimulate new ideas and initiative in the conduct of the Agency's cold war responsibilities," I propose that:

- a. Approval be obtained for paragraphs 2 a, b and c.
- b. PLAN A be approved and that you, as Chief, DDP/PG be appointed the Control Officer.
- c. The attached proposed revision of the [] be printed and distributed as soon as possible. (TAB A)
- d. A [] similar to the attached draft be published and distributed as soon as possible. (TAB B)

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Attachments:

TAB A

TAB B

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